

To: COYLE, BRIDGET[Coyle.Bridget@epa.gov]
From: Scott, Jeff
Sent: Thur 8/13/2015 5:23:03 PM
Subject: RE: Heads up

Thanks!

Jeff Scott

Director, Land Division

EPA Region 9

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From: COYLE, BRIDGET
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 5:11 PM
To: Blumenfeld, Jared
Cc: Scott, Jeff; Barhite, Steven; Manzanilla, Enrique; Ebbert, Laura; Tenley, Clancy
Subject: Heads up
Importance: High

Hi Jared-

It is possible that Navajo Nation EPA may raise the fact that EPA, Region 9 staff and management were at the Navajo Nation-hosted RTOC as the spill was occurring last week. Unfortunately, Region 8 did not release any information to Region 9 until the late afternoon/evening of Thursday, 8/6, after Region 9 staff had departed for the airport. Had we known about the incident earlier, we would have engaged with the NNEPA immediately.

Should the opportunity arise in your discussions with President Begaye (either onsite this week or by phone), you may find the following timeline useful:

- [REDACTED] Region 8 staff became aware of the spill on Wednesday 8/5, but did not broadcast the alert until the afternoon/evening of Thursday, 8/6.
- [REDACTED] On Thursday (8/6) afternoon, a number of Region 9 staff attended a Navajo Nation EPA-sponsored tour of a green charter school ("Star School") in Flagstaff, Arizona. Dr. Benn and his water team were present on the tour.
- [REDACTED] Region 9 staff had to leave before the subsequent waterfalls tour in order to drive back to Phoenix in time to catch our flights. We alerted staff on the tour about the reason for our departure.
- [REDACTED] Because Region 9 staff did not become aware of the Gold King Mine release until late Thursday (8/6) evening, we were unable to discuss it with NNEPA staff during the RTOC or subsequent tours.

Please let us know how we can support you in your discussions with the Tribe going forward. Thank you.

Bridget Coyle

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